

## **Trails Coordinating Task Force**

Thursday, October 23, 2014

4 PM Groton Senior Center

### **Minutes**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Mark Berry called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM

#### **II. Roll Call**

Members in Attendance: Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, Denise Descheneaux, Bernie French, Deb Jones, Debra Marshall-Baker, Bruce McDermott, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn

Alternates in Attendance: Sidney Van Zandt

Members Absent: A. Neil Brown, June Evered, Carla Henschel, Brae Rafferty, Bea Reynolds, Joan Smith, Rick Steven,

Guests in Attendance: None

#### **III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns - None**

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2014**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 26, 2014.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Descheneaux, so voted unanimously.

Van Zandt noted that the September meeting notes should reflect that Jon Lincoln was the park supervisor. She also noted that the sale of land off of Fishtown Road may interrupt the horse trails noted on the Hummingbird Farm web site.

#### **V. Correspondence/Communication – None.**

#### **VI. Reports**

A. Avalonia - Anderson reported that Avalonia held a fundraising event at the Mystic Art Center. She recently led a Senior Center Hike. She also noted that she has been contacted by Senior Center staff about additional hikes and will coordinate so as not to duplicate other organization's hiking opportunities. She noted that a water bar is needed on the outer loop of the Pequot Woods trail.

B. Copp Property - Berry reported that the contract for trail construction should be awarded soon and that the winning bid came in under budget. The work will begin this year. An extension of the time period to complete the work has been granted to June 2015.

- C. Cross Town Trail - Van Zandt noted that maintenance is planned for the Mortimer Wright portion of the trail.
- D. GOSA – Van Zandt noted that tours of the Avery property are on-going and fund raising events are being held. She noted that the Sheep Farm trails should be added to the Town’s interactive trail map and she offered to try to find a volunteer to do the update in the absence of the GIS Coordinator. She noted that she attended Jon Lincoln’s retirement event.
- E. Town Trails – Marshall-Baker reported that the Town Attorney is still reviewing the Mumford Cove trail situation and that a fence has been installed at the end of Neptune Drive. She noted that she helped the Shellfish Commission map a route to Mumford Cove over public land.
- F. TriTown Trails – Van Zandt reported that she attended the sign unveiling and the ceremonial first steps along the trail in Preston. Anderson reported that three people attended a rainy walk guided by Groton Utilities. She noted that there were three Groton Utilities employees, a truck and a temporary portable bathroom and felt that there should be a mechanism to cancel and reschedule walks due to weather, especially since Groton Utilities limits the number of walks in any given year.

**VII. Old Business**

Berry reported that Jon Reiner has been hired as the new Director of Planning and Development Services.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Meeting Schedule for 2015**

**MOTION:** To adopt a \*2015 meeting schedule that reflects a meeting on the fourth Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, June, September and October and on the first Thursday of December. All meetings to start at 4:00 PM and to be held at the Groton Senior Center.

Motion by Van Zandt, seconded by Munn, so voted unanimously.

\*Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 28, June 25, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Dec. 3, 2015

Descheneaux left the meeting at 4:55 PM

**B. Trail Planning**

Berry distributed the list of projects and priorities from the 2005 Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan and asked the Committee members to review the list. He would like the Committee to work on updating the list, adding new projects and adjusting the priorities. The list and associated map will be emailed to Committee members. Jones noted that a large scale paper map showing the projects is available in the Planning Department. French suggested reviewing the sidewalk work on Route 215 and considering modifications that could once again allow bicycle traffic. He will invite Jon Reiner to the next meeting to join the discussion.

Deb Marshall Baker intended to review the project list from the 2005 Bicycle, Pedestrian, Trails Master Plan and would update the TTF on the status of those projects at the next meeting.

McDermott asked for an update on the Merritt property ball fields proposal. Berry briefly reviewed the project and will bring the plans to the next meeting.

Anderson reported that she has found a trail website that reviews and rates trails, including some in Groton. She suggested Committee members look at the [auntiebeak.com](http://auntiebeak.com) site.

Van Zandt suggested that the Chambers of Commerce be notified of the trail resources on the Town's website. Anderson suggested hosting a trail information session at the library. Various civic groups, including Boy and Girl Scouts, the Coast Guard, news organizations and the public could be invited.

**IX. Next meeting – December 4, 2014, 4 pm. Groton Senior Center.**

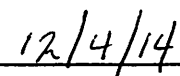
**X. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 5:10 PM

Motion by French, seconded by Van Zandt, so voted unanimously.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
Signature

  
Date